

## ✧ week 7: jesus the provider - mark 6:30-44

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30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. 33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. 36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

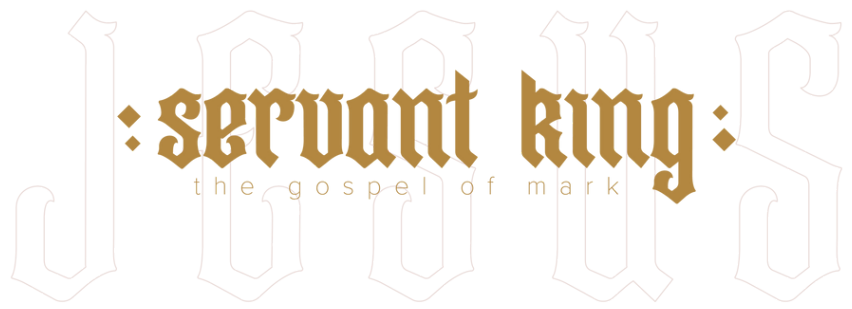
37 But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages[a]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

38 “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. 42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.



## ✦ personal study sheet

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the questions below to spend time in Scripture, dig deeper into the weekly sermon message, and to worship and pray. Each day, begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you learn and apply what you read. Then, read **Mark 6:30-44** and answer the day's questions.

### ◆ DAY 1: FOCUS ON PEOPLE AND THEIR NATURAL, WORLDLY TENDENCIES

- In this week's passage, we see the disciples' exhaustion and the overwhelming nature of the situation. How do you relate to feeling exhausted and overwhelmed by life's challenges?

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- What is an "impossible situation" that you are facing? How are you responding? How can we avoid allowing practicality and logic to hinder our faith and trust in God's provision?

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- Share any examples of times when you have struggled to offer what you have to God in challenging situations. What barriers or doubts do you encounter, and how can you overcome them?

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### ◆ DAY 2: FOCUS GOD, JESUS, HIS PLAN AND EXAMPLE

- **Read verses 33-36.** How does Jesus' view of the crowd differ from the disciples' perspective? What does this reveal about both Jesus' character and his mission?

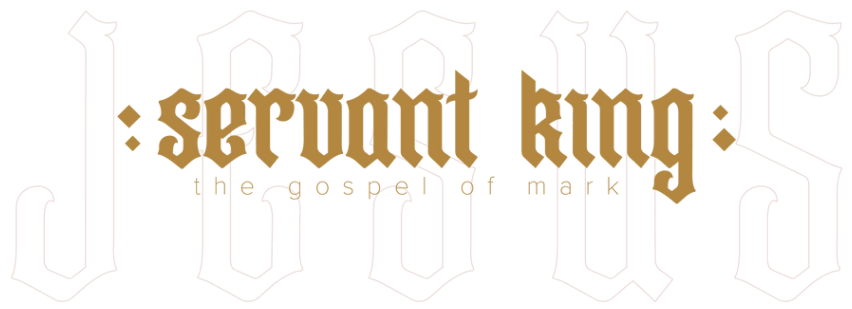
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- **Read verses 35-37.** Discuss the concept of God using a delivery system. Why do you think Jesus tells his disciples to feed the people? How does this idea challenge our perception of how God works in our lives?

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- Sometimes God waits for us to take the first step. Reflect on the relationship between obedience and experiencing God's miracles or provision, as demonstrated in this passage. How does taking steps of faith contribute to our spiritual growth and trust in God?

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- How does the concept of Jesus already solving our most impossible situation – our sin – reshape your perspective on the challenges you face in life?

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#### ◆ DAY 3: APPLICATION

- Jesus shows compassion to others, first to his disciples and then to the crowds. In what specific way can you show compassion to another person this next week?

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- Just as the little boy offered his lunch to Jesus, what are some seemingly small or insignificant resources or abilities that you possess? How might you offer these to Jesus, trusting that He can use them to bring about meaningful impact?

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- In what practical ways can you intentionally form your identity by the cross of Christ, especially in challenging times? How might this change your response and your interactions with others?

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#### ◆ DAY 4: WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Use **Psalm 23** in a time of worship and prayer.